

Algonquin-Cary Subarea Plan

Visioning Workshop Summary

June 5, 2019

The following is a summary of the results of the public visioning workshop for the Algonquin-Cary Subarea Plan held on May 15, 2019 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Algonquin.

The workshop began with a brief presentation by CMAP staff to provide an overview of the planning process and key findings from the existing conditions phase. Then participants divided into three groups in which they responded to a series of questions outlined in a discussion guide. Participants discussed ideas related to the environment, parks, recreation, economic development, and transportation. The groups then took part in a mapping activity where they used examples of different development, preservation, and open space options to develop a vision for subarea 1 and subarea 2.

Group Summaries

Using booklet guides provided by CMAP staff, groups responded to questions to encourage discussion. Below is a summary of their responses. A compendium of all comments received during the Visioning Workshop is included at the end of the document.

Environment, Parks, and Recreation

What types of recreation activities would you like to see in the area?

- Canoeing and kayaking, both carry-in and rentals
- Paddleboats
- Passive recreation – preserving views, nature preserve, fishing, birding
- Swimming area and beach
- All-season opportunities
- Improve/build paths for runners, walkers, and cyclists

Are there opportunities to enhance and protect natural resources and water quality?

- Protection of resources and the environment through conservation design, stormwater best management practices, and green infrastructure
- Tree planting program and preserve existing tree cover
- Limit what can be done with water in lakes for protection

How can we promote environmental education?

- Eco-friendly nature center

Economic Development

What types of new businesses or services are needed and where should they be located?

- Restaurants with patios to take advantage of lake views
- Coffee shops and cafes

- Small-scale, recreation focused retail

What type of housing would you like to see and where?

- Apartment complex with walkable community elements on Route 31
- Affordable townhomes along Klasen Road
- Lakefront condominiums

Are there opportunities to increase tourism and economic growth?

- Any development should utilize lake and views
- Replicate Chain O'Lakes business development along Fox River

What types of activities or events would attract people to the area?

- Develop outdoor amphitheater or entertainment space overlooking waterfront
- Wedding venue and event space

Transportation

What destinations would you like to reach by walking or biking?

- Prairie Trail connection
- East side of Fox River
- Connection between subareas 1 and 2 across Klasen Road
- Cary Metra station

What intersections need improvement to reduce traffic and/or make it safer for people to walk or bike?

- Klasen Rd. is currently busy and narrow

How can the Villages make it easier for people to navigate the trail network?

- Connections and signage
- How to connect to trails north of U.S. 14?

Do you think residents would benefit from providing transit service to/from the area?

- Pace bus on Route 31 would be great
- Utilize existing park & ride on west side of Route 31

Other Topics

What other topics should be addressed in the plan that we have not discussed?

- Incorporate best management practices (BMPs) and green infrastructure throughout the area
- Something 'fun' with existing/old mining equipment to attract visitors and serve as a reminder of history of area
- Protect beauty and restore natural ecosystem to help whole area

Mapping Exercise

Using large aerial maps along with provided sample images, participants placed representations of their vision for the plan on a map of the area along with comments.

Group 1

This group's vision embrace the water, with active recreation in Subarea 1, passive recreation in Subarea 2, and development such as restaurants, banquet halls, and 'higher-end' apartments making use of water frontage. In their vision, subarea 1 featured canoeing and kayaking opportunities, fishing, and possibly swimming, and paths for runners and walkers, while subarea 2 would be more passive, serving as a nature preserve with outdoor education opportunities for school groups. They wondered how to connect all the existing and proposed paths together and to attractions such as the Prairie Trail, the Fox River Trail, and the east side of the river. They also saw room for small scale, recreation based retail, concessions in sub area 1 near the water, and a possible walkable community development along Route 31 in Subarea 2.



Group 2

Group 2 wanted to see parks and open space maintained and enhanced, including non-motorized boat launches, all-seasons recreational opportunities, and keeping a sense of tranquility. The group concentrated potential development, including restaurants, cafes, and townhomes, along Route 31 and Klasen Road. They also located natural areas between residential neighborhoods and park space or other development to act as a buffer and maintain picturesque views.



Group 3

This group's vision sought to maintain and take advantage of the views from the lakefronts that strikes a balance between open space and recreation and development such as event spaces and multi-family housing to generate revenue. Their vision is about 'being different' to draw people to the area and expand amenities, not replicating existing parks or single-family housing developments in nearby areas. They also want the areas to be pet friendly. The group voiced concerns about the potential cost of extending utilities to developable sites along Route 31, and Klasen Rd. The stability of the land for new construction in subarea 1 and subarea 2 and the current condition of land in subarea 3 were also concerns voiced by the group.



Appendix. Comments Received

Below is a list of received comments 'as is.'

Environment, Parks, and Recreation

- Subarea 1
 - Canoeing and kayaking (carry in and rented)
 - Swimming – questionable
 - Fishing
 - Running and walkers
- Subarea 2
 - Passive recreation – nature preserve, peaceful and tranquil
 - Outdoor education – nature center for school groups
 - Birding
- What are the slopes on the shoreline? Hydrology?
- Managing vegetation
- Protection of resources and environment, both surface and subsurface
- Water based recreation is primary
- Preserve views for existing residential areas
- Paddleboats
- Swimming area
- Multi-season recreation
- Improve existing gravel paths in subarea 1
- Keep existing trees south of Klasen Rd in subarea 2
- Planting program in subarea 1 to add tree cover?
- Protective 'laws' for water
- Natural education center/eco-friendly
- Beach
- Dogs allowed

Economic Development

- No shoe stores or jewelry – something to attract folks
- Outdoor entertainment overlooking lake, maybe 200 people max
- Bike shops and tackle shops
- Concessions at subarea 1 lake with food
 - Not food trucks – wasteful
- Higher end apartment type with [conservation] design – walkable community
- Existing bike lane on east side of Rt 31
- Pedestrian signals at Virginia, bike path there
- Coffee shop near lake
- Concentrate development on the west side of Rt. 31
- Townhomes along Klasen Rd.
 - Need for more affordable housing on this area

- Restaurants/cafes/patios to take advantage of views
- Development should both face Rt. 31 and the lake (subarea 1)
 - Make use of views
 - Ideas includes a medical facility (doctors' office), office space, retirement complex, community college or church complex
 - Try to replicate Chain 'o' Lakes business development along the Fox River
- Subarea 1
 - No commercial development
 - Small scale retail, cafes and restaurants
- Subarea 2
 - Boating
- Subarea 3
 - Commercial development in existing industrial/mining area
- Development makes sense along Kasen Rd. and Rt. 31, but make sure they utilize the lake
- Bring in revenue but leave room for natural enjoyment
- Businesses with outdoor seating – shopping and restaurants
- Lakefront condos
- Wedding venue to make use of waterfront
- Outdoor amphitheater

Transportation

- Need to connect to Prairie Trail
 - Subarea 3 – possibility for connection to Prairie Trail to west → Batavia
 - How to connect to connect east to fox river trail and east side of river?
- How to connect to trails to north of Rt 14?
- Have bike/ped trail across fox river to connect to the east side of river through Haggars Bend Rd
- If development is added, especially housing, Klasen Rd. should be expanded
- Connect subarea 1 and 2 across Klasen Rd. in any expansion – underpass
- Pace bus improvement on Rt. 31 would be great
- Riding bike to Pace to connect with Metra in Cary or the mall

Other Topics

- Incorporate with BMPs and green infrastructure throughout the area
 - Parking islands recessed with bio-infiltration facilities
 - Permeable pavement in parking space areas
 - Filter strips
 - Bioswales
- Make something 'fun' with existing/old mining equipment – reminder of legacy and making it unique
- Good balance between making revenue and keeping the area a healthy ecosystem to help teach and be appreciated by everyone
 - Protect natural beauty, bring back ecosystem to help whole area
 - Development taking advantage of lake views